

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-6, and 21 and 22 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 and 21 have been amended, the amendments do not add new matter.

Support the amendments can be found in the Specification, page 17, lines 5-9 , and page 17-18, the abridging paragraph.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-6, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 05-093079 (hereinafter “JP ’079”). The Examiner contends JP ‘079 discloses a method to remove foreign matter attached to the surface of molded articles comprising the use of a mixture of (A) 10 wt. % aliphatic lower alcohol and (B) 1-10 wt% a readily volatile solvent. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection by submitting that JP ‘079 does not teach or suggest all the elements of the present invention.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the element “after the cleaning step, forming a plastic substrate by injection-molding said purified resin” and claim 21 to recite the element “after the purifying step, forming a plastic substrate by injection-molding said purified resin.” Thus, the claimed method includes cleaning/purifying the resin to remove containments *before* the resin is molded. In contrast to the present invention, JP ‘079 teaches cleaning the resin to remove containments as a pre-treatment of plating/coating *after* the resin has been molded.

Furthermore, unlike the present invention, the method of JP ‘079 does not remove defects in the molded resin or plastic substrate. Upon injection-molding, containments solidify within the resin, forming defects in the molded resin or plastic substrate. After the formation of the plastic substrate, it becomes impossible to remove the containments or defects by cleaning or wiping the surface with a solvent. JP ‘079 states that its process is used to “remove foreign matters attached to the surface of molded articles” (JP ‘079, abstract, emphasis added). JP ‘079’s process happens after a molding step and does not teach or suggest the method of the present invention.

Additionally, claims 2-6 and 23 all define over the prior art based on their own recital and their dependency from the independent claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 51-148771 (hereinafter “JP ‘771”). The Examiner contends that JP ‘771 discloses a method for cleaning norbornene resin comprising soaking the resin in (1) at least one alcohol from methanol, ethanol, n-propanol and isopropanol, (2) aqueous solutions containing at least 70 vol% of alcohols or (3) mixed solution comprising at least 80 vol% of the alcohols and below 20 vol% of other solvent. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because JP ‘771 does not teach or suggest all the aspects of the present invention.

In contrast to the present invention, but similar to JP ‘079, JP ‘771 teaches cleaning the resin to remove containments as a pre-treatment of plating/coating *after* the resin has been molded, not *before*. As submitted above, a method that cleans a molded resin with a solvent does not result in the removal of defects in the molded resin or plastic substrate. Accordingly, JP ‘771’s title is “Treatment of Norborne Polymers Prior to Plating”, emphasis added. One of ordinary skill

in the art is aware that the resin must be molded before it can be plated. Thus, JP, '771's process must take place after the molding step and does not teach or suggest the present invention.

Additionally, claim 22 defines over the prior art based, at least, on its own recital and its dependency from the independent claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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